



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



School of
EDUCATION

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ANN ARBOR

Winter 2017

Blessings from the Dean

I am pleased to say the Lord is continuing to bless the School of Education. We have been most fortunate to have three new staff members join our ranks. They are Professor Joshua Kittleman, Department Chair of the Family Life Program, Professor Jennifer Fieten, Child Life Specialist in the Family Life Program, and Carrie Richardson, Academic Advisor and Licensure and Assessment Coordinator for the School of Education. They have already been tremendous blessings and complement the department in a very positive way! We are glad to have them. Please welcome them to the School of Education.

The School of Education and Family Life department hosted great opening events for the teacher preparation and Family Life students. We look forward to hosting one combined event next year to bring students of both majors together in collaboration and support.

There are many exciting things happening in the School of Education. We are meeting with the Michigan Department of Education and other stakeholders to explore new program options for our department. Stay tuned for updates. Newsletters will keep you updated on program activities and events. Please accept my standing invitation to visit our campus and meet with our faculty and staff whenever it is convenient for you. Blessings and best wishes for continued success in your school year!



Sandra J. Harris, Ed.D. – Campus Dean

Growing in Grace

The School of Education is expanding with the largest School of Education freshman class in the last four years.

Plans for Intentional Growth

The School of Education is growing intentionally with the largest freshman class in four years, the addition of three new staff members, and the expansion of Preferred Educational Partnership outreach. At the back-to-school luau, new students gathered with returning students as they met the School of Education faculty and staff and spent time as a school enjoying food, fellowship, and fun. Dean Harris welcomed new students in a welcome address saying: "You are in the most noble profession possible," adding, "Remember, teachers make all professions possible."



School of Education students at the 2017 Back-To-School Luau

In This Issue

- Blessings from the Dean
- Growing in Grace
- Meet the New Staff
- Graduate Education
- Calendar

Meet the New School of Education Staff



Pictured: Jennifer Fieten

CUAA Family Life Students are in High Demand

The child life program is a minor or a “field” within the family life undergraduate program which is CUAA’s second most popular major, and one of only two universities in the Concordia University system to offer a program of its kind. Graduates of the program go on to serve children and families in a variety of healthcare and alternative settings providing psychosocial, emotional and developmental support during times of medical intervention, crisis, or hospitalization. Meet the two new staff members who lead this exceptional program:

Jennifer Fieten, M.A., CCLS

My name is Jennifer Fieten and I am the new Child Life Coordinator and a new Assistant Professor in the Family Life Program here at Concordia. Prior to this position, I have been a child life specialist for seventeen years. I am coming here having just worked as a child life specialist with a pediatric palliative care and hospice program, providing child life services for patients and their families in their homes. While in this position, I also worked as Adjunct Faculty at Nova Southeastern University, where I provided instruction for graduate students enrolled in an online master’s program with a concentration in child life. I feel so blessed to have had the opportunities that I have had in my life and am so thankful to now have the opportunity to be with the students and faculty at Concordia University Ann Arbor. I am excited to serve here and to support the students as they pursue God’s calling on their lives.

Joshua Kittleman, M.S., CFLE

My name is Joshua Kittleman and I am the new Family Life Department Chair and an Assistant Professor in the Family Life Program. I graduated from the Family Life Program at Concordia Ann Arbor back in 2002. The life-changing interactions I had with my professors fueled my desire to return to Concordia someday and make a similar impact in the lives of students. I spent four years at St. John’s Lutheran in Adrian and eleven years at Peace Lutheran in Shelby Township as a Director of Family Life Ministries (DFLM). I am so thankful for the experience I gained in helping equip faith-filled families in a variety of ministry contexts. Now I am excited and humbled by the opportunity to return to Concordia. Jennifer and I know that we have big shoes to fill! Nonetheless, we are thrilled to dream big and walk alongside our students as they – in the words of Concordia’s mission statement - “develop in **mind**, **body**, and **spirit** for service to Christ in the Church and the World!”

“Most importantly, an advisor is someone who cares about helping you find your passion and developing it into your life mission.”

- Carrie Richardson, School of Education Advisor—

Carrie Richardson, M.S.

Ms. Richardson is the new School of Education academic advisor. Here is her take on the role:

What is an academic advisor? *This is a question I receive on a regular basis since accepting my new role in the School of Education. My first fall semester has prompted me to reflect on this response. Most institutions would list the following as an advisors responsibilities: a point of contact for academic issues, someone who develops your academic plan, someone who tells you what classes to take, or someone who will write a personal reference.*

What is your favorite part of being an advisor? *I have learned that this role is so much more. An advisor is an educator, counselor, motivator, encourager, advocate, empathizer, career counselor, networking expert and an interpreter of educational policy. Most importantly, an advisor is someone who cares about helping you find your passion and developing it into your life mission.*

What’s the “why” behind what you do—the heart behind the work you do? *Here at Concordia University’s School of Education, we work with our future educators and help them succeed in obtaining this goal with a Christ-centered focus. They truly make a difference in the lives they touch.*

Preferred Educational Partnerships


The School of Education offers Preferred Educational Partnerships to districts to make tuition more accessible to teachers with a 24% tuition discount. But partnership is more—CUAA devotes representation in the community to keep a current pulse on educational needs and continuously provide in-person resources for schools, and most importantly—our teachers!

The School of Education serves over 100 schools through Preferred Educational Partnerships. For more information on which schools and districts are “PEP” schools, visit www.cuaa.edu/PEP

To mention just a few:

- Chelsea School District
- Eastern U.P. ISD
- Jackson Public Schools
- Milan Area Schools
- Saline Area Schools



 **Concordia University** @cuaa - Aug 30
Have a great school year, teachers! #CUAA is visiting @SalineSchools & @masbigreds staff this morning for #BacktoSchool. #ThankYouTeachers!



Teachers eating lunch together on the CUAA campus during Summer Institute Workshops

Graduate Education

The School of Education works to foster growth in our communities and schools. Initiatives like the Summer Institute Workshops bring teachers from various schools, whether charter, public, or private, to learn in a classroom on the Concordia campus with other teachers. The number of Preferred Educational Partnerships continues to grow as schools and school districts join us in a partnership agreement. An informational night for those interested in an MSCl with a concentration in Early Childhood was well attended and we look forward to starting a seated cohort in 2018. John Spisak and Carmen Difranco joined our adjunct teaching staff in the Special Education Learning Disabilities program.

Summer Institute Workshops

Each July, teachers come to the Ann Arbor campus to earn SCECHs and participate in hands-on workshops hosted by the School of Education. Workshops are offered in a one- or two-day format and teachers choose from a variety of topics including technology, literacy, classroom strategies, assessment and more. Planning is underway for 2018!

Notable Graduates

Congratulations to some 25 graduate students who completed either the MS in Educational Leadership, the School Administrator Certificate Program, or the MS in Curriculum & Instruction. The first MS in Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education program graduated 14 students. The first English as a Second Language Endorsement cohort at Dearborn Academy finished their coursework, and all candidates passed the MTTC Endorsement test.

Mirvat Sabbagh (MSEL) was recently appointed as an assistant principal at Lowery 1-9 School in Dearborn. Allie Whitford (MSCl) began her doctoral program in MSCl at Michigan State University this fall. Jacob Anastoff became the Tecumseh High School Assistant Principal. Shanna Henline (MSEL) and Megan Karpinski (MSEL) both acquired administrative roles. Congratulations to all of our graduates and alumni with professional advancements!

Calendar

November 16, 2017 - SEEDS, Mike Bender

On November 16, from 6:15—7:30 p.m., Mr. Mike Bender, Principal of St. Lorenz Lutheran School in Frankenmuth, MI, will speak on the topic of *Managing Change in Schools*. Mr. Bender has led his school through significant changes, particularly in technology. He will bring useful insight from his experiences as current and future educators consider how to handle the ever-changing educational landscape.

What is SEEDS?: This year marks the 5th year of the School of Education's SEEDS (School of Education Excellence Development Speakers) program which brings prominent educators onto campus to speak on a variety of topics impacting educators today. In September, we were blessed to have Mrs. Keturah Godfrey, Principal of Keystone Academy in Belleville, who enlightened us on the unique characteristics of charter schools. Her talk was followed by a lively Q & A session. All SEEDS are free and open to teachers, alumni, and anyone interested.

December 1-3, 2017 - A Manor Christmas

Gather with Concordia University for A Manor Christmas. Holiday tours of the historic Earhart mansion, the 40th annual Boar's Head Festival, and a European-styled Christmas market will offer a truly memorable and very merry weekend for the whole family. Our Christkindlmarkt, a first for Ann Arbor, includes artisans, a greens market, and seasonal foods. Guests of all ages will enjoy the festivities, including children's activities and entertainment in the "libations tent." Don't miss the 2017 inaugural weekend of A Manor Christmas. It is free and open to all.

January 6, 2018 - Graduate Start Date

Graduate education courses such as Master's of Science in Educational Leadership and other programs begin January 6. Graduate courses run on an accelerated 8-week format and applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

February 7, 2018 - SEEDS, Travis Grulke

Travis Grulke, Superintendent of Schools, Michigan District, LCMS, will speak on the following topic: *Leading a Balanced Life as an Educator*. We hope you can join us.

February 10, 2018 - Family Life Seminar, Biblical Parenting

Family Life Seminar 2: *Biblical Parenting*. This all day event takes place in Ann Arbor at the Concordia University Ann Arbor North Building. For more information and to register, visit www.michigandistrict.org

March 20, 2018 - SEEDS, New Teacher Panel

This SEEDS presentation will feature a teacher panel to discuss the joys and challenges of being a new teacher. This will be a great opportunity to ask questions and learn from their experiences as new teachers in the field.

July 2018

Summer Institute Workshops

Contact Us:

CUAA School of Education
4090 Geddes Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Undergraduate Education:
Katie Leguizamon
734-995-7458

Graduate Education:
Julie Edler
734-995-7459